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ing and descend from father to son, as if they were freeholds. A wage of six dollars and a half per month is not at all exceptionally low, even for a man with a family to support, and the wife makes no direct contribution to the family income. The author publishes an itemized account of the expenditures of one of these families, extending over a period of six years, so that one may see how a yearly income of ninety dollars makes it possible for a family of four to live and lay by something for a rainy day.

No. 15 of the series is a statistical study, dealing with the conditions of life and labor of the female wage-earners of Stockholm. As the employment of women creates much the same problems in one city as in another, one who is interested in the subject may find some suggestions of value in this little monograph. And, as it is published in German, it is more accessible to most students than the others of the series. On the whole, the work is carefully done, and the results are conveniently presented, both in tabular and in graphic form. The numbers with which the author deals are, however, so small that one would hesitate to form conclusions from them or to accept the conclusions that the author has given.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

ALVIN S. JOHNSON.

L'Industria dello Zuccherio. II: Commercio Importanza Economica e Legislazione Doganale. Per LUIGI FONTANA-RUSO. Milano, Ulrico Hoepli, 1899. — 244 pp.

This small volume is number two in a series of handbooks on the sugar industry, in Hoepli's series of manuals, numbering fully 600 volumes in all. The book, as its title indicates, deals with economic and legislative phases of the sugar question, with direct reference to the policy of the government toward this industry. The scope of the treatment includes a historical and statistical survey of the production, trade and consumption of sugar, the development of the beet-sugar industry, the systems of imposts and premiums designed to promote this industry, the economic importance of domestic production to Italy, the international conferences for the abolition of the export premiums on sugar, Italian legislation, and a comparative summary of legislation in Germany, France and Austria.

The author advocates the policy of having Italy produce her own sugar. The researches of the Ministry of Agriculture, as well as those of private associations, have demonstrated "that the sugar beet can be produced in any part of Italy of such quality and

quantity as will compare favorably with the results achieved in other countries" (pp. 111, 112). It is, therefore, scientifically practicable as an economic policy.

The expediency of this policy is argued, on the ground that the beet-sugar industry everywhere brings great advantage to agriculture as a whole (pp. 87, 114), by improving both the methods and the results of cultivation of other crops. All northern European experience tends to prove this. The adoption of this policy is urged, therefore, as one way of escape from the discouraging condition in which the rural population of Italy now finds itself. But, before this single industry can work its remedial advantages to agriculture, fiscal legislation must be revised, in order to give a more certain field of investment to capitalists, by giving protection to domestic manufactures of sugar and by so adjusting the excise tax as to encourage more rapid progress in domestic consumption. Domestic refining has already made gratifying advances and sugar-beet manufacture has passed beyond the experimental stage.

If, therefore, an import tax high enough to be of a truly protective character were imposed, and the loss of revenue on imports were made good by an excise tax on the products of the beet-root factory, it seems probable that the proposed readjustment of fiscal burdens would result in the desired development of beet-sugar manufacture and the consequent encouragement of agriculture. Twenty-five factories like the one at Rieti could make all that Italy now consumes.¹ It does not appear that the consumer would be injured by this change in policy. It would probably even improve his position. At any rate, it seems worth while to try to develop this industry, in which Italy has almost alone remained stationary, while other European countries have made signal successes.

NEW YORK CITY.

JOHN FRANKLIN CROWELL.

The Wheat Problem. By SIR WILLIAM CROOKES. New York, G. P. Putnam's Sons; London, John Murray, 1900. — xiii, 272 pp.

This book includes an address by Sir William Crookes, upon "The World's Wheat Supply," before the British Association for the Advancement of Science in 1898; "Replies to my Critics," by the same author; "Our Present and Prospective Food Supply," by C. Wood Davis; a reprint of an article from *The North American*

¹ *Sucrerie*, tome liii, no. 9, pp. 251-253.